

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 17 January 2008 has been received and considered.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 45, 53, 54-56, 63, 64, 66 and 80-157 have been objected to in view of a number of informalities. The objection to the referenced claims have been addressed by adopting the suggested amendments of the Examiner. In view of those amendments, applicant believes that the claims, as amended, presently obviate the bases of the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102:

Claims 53 and 55 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over US Patent 4,132,186 (Schmit).

In paragraph 10 of his Action the Examiner indicated that claim 54 would be allowable if it were rewritten to overcome the referenced claim objections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim of Claim 54, i.e. claim 53 and the limitations of any intervening claim .

Responsive to the indications of the Examiner applicant has amended claim 53 to include all of the limitations of Claim 54 and furthermore, claim 53 has been amended to rectify any objections noted as to Claims 53 and 54. It follows that Claim 53, as presently amended, is in effect Claim 54 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (Claim 53) of Claim 54 and the limitations of any intervening claim (there being no intervening claim). In view of the prior indications of the Examiner and further in view of the amendment of Claim 53, Claim 53 should now be allowable.

Claim 55 depends from Claim 53. In view of the allowability of Claim 53, indicated above, applicant respectfully submits that Claim 55 should now be allowable for the same reasons which

support the allowability of Claim 53 and furthermore in view of the additional limitations set forth in Claim 55. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 53 and 55 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 63 and 64 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over US Patent 4,132,186 (Manske et al). Applicant has cancelled claims 63 and 64 without prejudice thereby rendering their rejection moot.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103:

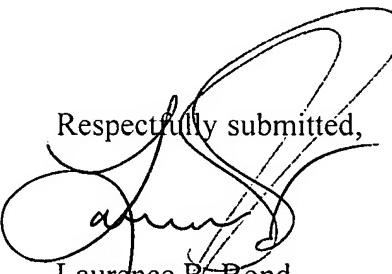
Claim 56 has been rejected under 35 USC 103 over US Patent 4,132,186 (Schmit). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 56 depends from Claim 53. As noted above, Claim 53 has been amended, consistent with the indications of the Examiner, and in its amended form distinguishes over the Schmit reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 56, in view of its dependency from the amended Claim 53 should now be in condition for allowance for the same reasons which support the allowability of Claim 53 and further in view of the additional limitations set forth in Claim 56. In view of these considerations, applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 56.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the amendments to claims referenced above, the pending claims of the application should now be allowable for the reasons indicated above. Reconsideration of the claims of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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